Its disconcerting the way your continually being picked up here by those who"know". For instance this morning talking with young N.W.McGrew, who is in the Japanese Legation, I spoke sneeringly with something which has always tu stuck in my crop- the opium war. he went off like a rocket. It was not opium that caused the war. England has always been belabored unjustly, China condoled with, the war was really the result of a long series of double and unfair dealing by Chinese merchants and fishermen it wa inevitable and the findingof a few chests of opium by the Chinese touched it off. The fact that it has always goine into our histories as the Opium War is due to anti-British propaganda. I don't know when I have had such a dressing down from a young man.

I promptly took refuge in a large and general statement, not having the facts at hands, that of course the incident which touched off a war, like the firing on Fort Sumpter, or the killing of tha Austrian Archduke was never anything more than a last straw. That everybody who read history must understand that was had a long period of gestitation. But th t we must reali e that those chests of opium were there. They happednt to be the fort Sumpter for that war. It really seems up to me now to learn about it, much the same was as I was obliged to learn about poison gas because of a conversational indiscretion. What is the truth about the opium war?

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This led us very naturally enough to discussingthe present opium trade. The charge that China makes that opium comes toher in large quantities through the cognivance of Jap. postmasters. The young man claims rather too violently, I think that the great bulk of opium comes into China through Manchuria, and the connivance is really by Chinese smugglers th mselves. Moreover he points out that much of the opium used is made in is raised inChina itself, that there are v st poppy fields in the interior. It seems pretty certain that we ourselves are notentirely free from blame, for great quantities of the stuff are made in Phila. Edinburg,Scotland is another headquarter of manufacturer.

Interesting thing to me is that everybody is intendt on blaming somebody else, in order to protect China and help the decent elements there in the fight against opium, we have to have a scapegoat. The scapegoat of this conference has been Japan. I think theres a certain revulsion of feeling. It would be a very serious thing, however, if in this revulsion, there should be as of course is always possible, in changes of point of view, a lesson of sympathy with China in the tremendous task she has of deomcratizing and liberalizing herself.

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